



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE REMOVES 514 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM 5-STATE AREA DURING DECEMBER

NEW ORLEANS—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers here announced today the removal of 18 criminal aliens and 496 non-criminal aliens from the New Orleans district during December.

The New Orleans district covers Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Those arrested were lawfully ordered to leave the United States by an immigration judge. Criminal aliens are non-citizens who have committed a felony that makes them ineligible to remain in the United States in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Status violators are persons who have no legal status to be in the United States under the act, but have not committed a felony.

The offenses of the criminal aliens removed included sexual abuse, burglary, aggravated assault, narcotics, child molestation, larceny, fraud, rape, alien smuggling, manslaughter, homicide, assault and battery, retail fraud, and more.

This local enforcement operation is part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 criminal fugitive aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are hiding in the United States.

“We are committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system,” said ICE Field Office Director Craig Robinson. “Our intense focus on criminal and fugitive aliens protects the public by taking criminals and lawbreakers off the streets and deporting them to their countries of citizenship.”

A primary goal of ICE's Detention and Removal program is to reduce the number of alien absconders who are hiding in the United States. Absconders are foreign nationals who have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but failed to comply with those orders. Since absconders have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.